

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 875
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Susan Underwood on her selection as Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Williamson County School System.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Susan Underwood is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Underwood was recently selected as Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Williamson County School System, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Underwood has served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher at Fred J. Page Middle School for five years, and she has been teaching in Tennessee public schools for nineteen years; and

WHEREAS, she attended Middle Tennessee State University, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1981, her Masters of Education with a middle school emphasis in 1983, and EDS degree with elementary school emphasis in 1987; and

WHEREAS, a valued participant in numerous professional associations and programs, Susan Underwood is a member of the Wilson County Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, and National Education Association, and she rendered sterling service as the Social Studies Department Chair, Lead Mentor for the New Teacher Mentoring Program, Yearbook Advisor, Director of Young Women in Harmony, Girls Cross Country Coach, and Cheerleading Sponsor. She was also the motivational force behind the organization of a school-wide geography bee; and

WHEREAS, devoting countless hours to educating this State's youth, Susan Underwood has served as a member of the Performance Advisory Team, Parent Teacher Organization, County Textbook Committee, STARS Core Team, Harpeth Reading Association, Tennessee Association of Middle Schools, Tennessee Council for Social Studies, and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Susan Underwood was the first recipient of the Marie Crunk Award, an annual school-level recognition given for outstanding teaching; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Underwood donates her time and talents to many charitable organizations, including the Red Cross, the Tennessee Department of Health, Sweet Adelines, the Girl Scouts, Meals on Wheels, and the Tennessee Outreach Project; she also organized relief aid for September 11th victims, Hurricane Katrina victims, the Sudanese Dinka tribe, and villagers in Zimbabwe; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Susan Underwood faithfully serves her church as a Praise Team member, pianist, organist, and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Underwood is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both in academics and in community service; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Underwood truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Susan Underwood truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Susan Underwood upon being named as Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Williamson County School System, commend her

exceptional service to the children of Williamson County and Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.